

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02963 311528Z

71

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAM-01 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /162 W

----- 103441

R 311433Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2607

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 2963

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS : PINT, IS

SUBJECT : KNESSET DEBATE ON SYRIAN ISRAELI

DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 2194; FBIS KYRENAI 302125Z MAY 74

1. SUMMARY. EIGHT HOUR KNESSET DEBATE MAY 30 PRECEDING
76-36-3 VOTE APPROVING SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT
UNDERLINED BASIC CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LABOR ALIGNMENT'S
APPROACH TO ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS AND RIGHTWING OPPOSITION
LIKUD'S HARDLINE INTRANSIGENCE AGAINST TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS.
LIKUD HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED EVERY GOI DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE
AND EVERY AGREEMENT WHICH ISRAEL HAS ADHERED TO SINCE END OF
COTOBER WAR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ADDITION TO MRS. MEIR'S OPENING ADDRESS (REFTEL) PRINCIPAL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEL AV 02963 311528Z

ARGUEMENTS IN FAVOR OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WERE

SUMMARIZED BY DAYAN IN HIS REBUTTAL OF LIKUD CRITICISM (SEE BELOW). DAYAN'S MAIN POINTS WERE AS FOLLOWS. AGREEMENT SIGNIFIED BASIC CHANGE NOT IN ISRAELI BUT IN ARAB POSITION IN WAKE OF OCTOBER WAR. BEFORE LAST WAR EGYPT HAD REFUSED TO DISCUSS ISRAEL'S OFFER TO PULL BACK FROM SUEZ CANAL UNLESS THIS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY COMMITMENT TO EVACUATE SINAI COMPLETELY, AND SYRIA HAD REFUSED ALL CONTACT WITH ISRAEL. SYRIANS STILL WANTED TO PUSH ISRAEL OFF GOLAN BUT, IN CONTEXT OF THIS AGREEMENT AT LEAST, THEY HAD WITHDRAWN THEIR DEMAND FOR PRIOR COMMITMENT ON RETURN TO 1967 BORDERS. DAYAN HOPED JEWISH COMMUNITY IN SYRIA WOULD EVENTAALLY BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE, BUT THIS COULD NOT TECHNICALLY BE LINKED TO DISENGAGEMENT.

3. DAYAN SAID THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH U.S. ATTEMPTS TO BETTER ITS POSITION IN ARAB WORLD. IN NEGOTIATING DISENGAGEMENT, SECRETARY HAD FOUND "GOLDEN MEAN" BETWEEN INTERESTS OF SYRIA, EGYPT, ISRAEL AND U.S. U.S. HAD NOT APPLIED PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND AT NO POINT HAD THREATENED STOPPAGE OF ECONOMIC OR MILITARY AID. ABSENCE OF ACCORD WOULD HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED DISENGAGEMENT WITH EGYPT. HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT AGREEMENT DID NOT FOLLOW EGYPTIAN MODEL IN TWO RESPECTS -- THERE WOULD BE NO BUFFER ZONE HELD EXCLUSIVELY BY UN AND BOTH SIDES WOULD BE IN RANGE OF EACH OTHER'S GUNS. NONETHELESS, HE HOPED THAT CIVILIAN RESETTLEMENT OF KUNEITRA WOULD HELP REDUCE TENSION IN AREA.

4. DAYAN EXPLICITLY REJECTED LIKUD CHARGE THAT GOI HAD GIVEN UP STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT LOCATIONS ON HEIGHTS. IN ANSWERING LIKUD ACCUSATION THAT GOI HAD CHANGED ITS STAND ON NO WITHDRAWAL BEYOND PURPLE LINE, HE SAID THAT IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE TO HIM HOW LIKUD COULD AT ALL ENVISAGE POLITICAL NEGOTIATING PROCESS IN WHICH OPENING POSITION OF ONE SIDE WAS ALSO ITS FINAL POSITION.

5. LIKUD INTRODUCED DRAFT RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS REJECTED BY KNESSET, CALLING FOR KNESSET APPROVAL OF DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ON NORTHERN FRONT, BUT FOR SEPARATION WHICH WOULD BE CARRIED OUT ONLY IN SALIENT, AND NO WITHDRAWAL FROM LINE FIXED AT END OF SIX DAY WAR. RESOLUTION FURTHER CALLED FOR ALL JEWS IN SYRIA TO BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE COUNTRY. DRAFT RESOLUTION CRITICIZED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT DID NOT INSURE RESCUE OF SYRIAN JEWRY, DID NOT COMMIT SYRIA TO PREVENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TEL AV 02963 311528Z

TERRORIST ATTACKS, INCREASED THREAT TO GOLAN HEIGHTS SETTLEMENTS, AND DID NOT BRING PEACE NEARER.

6. LIKUD LEADER BEGIN CHARGED GOI WITH ABANDONING ITS COMMITMENT NOT TO WITHDRAW ON GOLAN HEIGHTS WITHOUT PEACE AGREEMENT. SYRIAN REFUSAL TO ANNOUNCE ITS WILLINGNESS TO STOP TERRORISM ACROSS ITS BORDERS WAS AN "INTERNATIONAL SCANDAL" WHICH NO THIRD-PARTY DECLARATION SUCH AS THAT GIVEN BY U.S. COULD CANCEL OUT.

DISENGAGEMENT WOULD NOT LEAD TO RELEASE OF SYRIAN JEWS. BEGIN PREDICTED THAT WHEN ASAD, HUSSEIN, AND SADAT DEMANDED FURTHER WITHDRAWALS IN FUTURE, GOI WOULD EXPLAIN TO ISRAELI PUBLIC THAT ALTERNATIVE WAS WAR AND ADDITIONAL COMPROMISES NEEDED. "BUT BY THAT TIME THE ENEMY AND HIS GUNS WILL BE STANDING CLOSER TO THE HEART OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT." ADDRESSING MRS. MEIR DIRECTLY, GEGIN ASKED, "ARE YMKEADY TO DECLARE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE WITHDRAWALS?"

7. LIKUD LEADER RIMALT WARNED THAT EVEN BEFORE INK HAD DRIED ON AGREEMENT, CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN PUT FORWARD BEARING SEEDS OF FUTURE CONFLICTS. NEW LINES WOULD ENABLE SYRIA TO LAUNCH NEXT ATTACK FROM BETTER TACTICAL POSITIONS. SYRIANS TANKS WOULD BE ABLE TO SHELL ISRAELI VILLAGES AT ANY TIME. NATIONAL CONSENSUS THAT GOLAN WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ISRAEL HAD BEEN SHATTERED. WHILE PURPLE LINE WAS NOT SACRED, BREACH OF CONSENSUS ENTAILED IN WITHDRAWAL SYMBOLIZED ABANDONMENT OF ALL OTHER LINES. HUSSEIN WOULD WANT SEPARATION OF FORCES NEXT. "BUT WHAT HE REALLY WANTS IS TO SEPARATE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL FROM THE LAND OF ISRAEL." IN SUMMING UP ARGUMENTS AGAINST AGREEMENT, RIMALT CALLED IT PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH IGNORED ROOTS OF DISPUTE AND DEFERRED REAL DECISIONS. DISENGAGEMENT WAS MEANT ONLY TO BRIDGE PRESENT CRISIS AFTER WHICH EVERYTHING WOULD RETURN TO SAME SITUATION AS BEFORE.

8. LIKUD LEADER SHARON SAID THAT IT WAS ILLUSION TO THINK THAT REBUILDING OF KUNETRA WOULD GUARANTEE TRANQUILITY AND PREVENT RESUMED FIGHTING. THERE WAS NO IMPORTANCE IN FORCE REDUCTIONS IN NARROW STRIP SUCH AS GOLAN. THERE WAS NO VALUE IN UN BUFFER ZONE WHEN IT HAD SYRIAN CIVILIAN AND POLICE IN IT.

9. FINALLY, LIKUD LEADER TAMIR SAID THAT ISRAEL, BY GIVING UP SUEZ CANAL AND KUNEITRA, HAD YIELDED ITS TWO STRONGEST CARDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 TEL AV 02963 311528Z

FOR ACHIEVING PEACE TREATIES WITH ARABS.

10. IN SIGH OF CRACK IN LIKUD UNANIMITY AGAINST DISENGAGEMENT, LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER GIDEON PATT ABSENTED HIMSELF FROM KNESSET IN PROTEST AGAINST REFUSAL OF LIKUD LEADERSHIP TO ALLOW HIM TO ABSTAIN IN VOTE ON DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

11. PRESENTATION OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT MARKS LAST OFFICIAL ACT OF OUTGOING MEIR GOVERNMENT IN KNESSET. KNESSET IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO CONVENE 1100 LOCAL JUNE 3 FOR DEBATE ON PROPOSED RABIN CABINET, TO BE CONCLUDED WITH VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AND, IF APPROVED, OFFICIAL SWEARING IN OF NEW CABINET. DEBATE IS LIKELY TO LAST AT LEAST 4-5 HOURS. VELIOTES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, MUTUAL FORCE WITHDRAWALS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV02963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740138-0381
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974051/aaaaaalm.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEL AVIV 2194; FBIS KYRENAI 302125Z, MAY 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : KNESSET DEBATE ON SYRIAN ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS, SY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005